

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—1ST SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 1854.
SENATE.

Mr. Seward presented two petitions, when Mr. Bright moved that all prior orders be postponed and the Senate proceed to consider the motion to refer the correspondence relating to the Clayton Bulwer treaty.

Mr. Cass then rose, and entered into a circumstantial account of the negotiations between this country and the British Government respecting the colony of the Bay Islands. This treaty, it was stated, did not include Honduras. Upon its ratification the Democratic party was divided. He was in favor of it, and approved of the course of the Senator from Delaware. He approved of it, because it excluded British influence from the whole of Central America of so great importance to the United States, on account of the interoceanic communication between the Eastern and Western States. He would vote for the Monroe doctrine, if practicable; but, if not, he would get the next best thing, namely, by any convention that would get rid of European influence in this country. The Senator from Virginia had remarked in the last discussion, that it was the first time that Great Britain had ever given up a territory without any struggle.

Mr. Cass then commented upon a certain comment made by the Senator from Delaware, respecting what he said, and averred that he had committed very grave errors in his remarks. The argument was respecting the words Central America, and what might be comprised in the term, and what he meant by the term.

He then entered into an account of the negotiations respecting British Honduras, which, it had been stated, did not form part of the treaty. It would have been better to have defined the British possessions in Central America, before the treaty was ratified. The difficulty was in the obscurity of the term.

He thought to have been clearly defined before the ratification. The British Government would not allow Honduras to be construed as forming part of the British possessions in Central America, and to this the Secretary of State had consented. The term Central America was used at the suggestion of Lord Palmerston; but the ambassador, Sir Henry Bulwer, had never mentioned it in his letter. He had got the treaty ratified, and that was all he wanted.

To define what comprised Central America, after the ratification had been made, was like shutting the stable door after the horse was gone. If the treaty was a question at law, it would be found that a great portion of what constitutes Central America, had been cut off by the treaty. It was apparent that the Hon. Secretary had misgivings, as he went to the chairman of the committee on foreign affairs to ask his opinion. The Senator from Delaware, in his letter to Col. King, states that all who voted in the Senate, for or against the bill, understood that British Honduras was not included in it.

The speaker went on other branches of the subject, and vindicated himself from misrepresentation or misunderstandings of his speech of the last session on the same head. His speech is a very elaborate one, in the form in which it will be published, though his speech was not so detailed in the floor. As regards the exclusion of the British from Central America by the treaty, he occupies much the same ground as Mr. Clayton, though thinking it ambiguous.

Mr. Cass finished at 2 1/2 o'clock, when Mr. Clayton got the floor, and the subject was postponed until to-morrow, and after a short executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker announced the first business in order to be the resolution tendering the thanks of Congress and a medal to Capt. Ingraham.

Mr. Phillips moved an amendment to strike out the words "in extending the protection of the American Government to Martin Koszta," and inserting, "in vindicating the right of Martin Koszta to American protection."

Mr. Perkins asked leave to offer a resolution requesting the President to communicate all the correspondence, other than that heretofore communicated, between the State Department and the consular agents abroad, or with foreign powers, relating to the protection extended by the United States to citizens in foreign countries, and those who have declared their intention to become citizens. This was objected to.

Mr. Perkins said, the friends of Ingraham must be gratified that there was a dissenting voice in the House as to the propriety of the gallant conduct of that officer in rescuing Martin Koszta. The difficulty of gentlemen who complain at the action of the committee on foreign affairs is, that they find in the resolution language sufficiently comprehensive of the sense of gallantry of Ingraham, and at the same time distinctly enunciated of the principle on which his conduct should be judged. They could not find any eulogy in which he could not concur; they could express no language too forcible in approbation of the letter of the Secretary of State. He thought in this matter the Secretary of State was almost as fortunate as Ingraham. The act of Ingraham was a bright act in our naval history. So he believed the letter of the Secretary indicated a new era in American diplomacy.

This resolution proposed a more complimentary present than a sword, which the other designed. In only a few instances have medals been awarded—namely, to Preble, Perry, Elliot and McDonough; in every instance to naval officers commanding squadrons. He contended that if the committee had designed to enunciate a great national principle, they could not have employed language other than that embodied in the resolution. We have acquired a long enough in the European interpretation of the laws of nations, which have been construed to suit the purposes of arbitrary dynasties.

Mr. Disney of Ohio, next rose. He said he believed it was conceded on all hands that thanks to Ingraham, in a matter of public policy, are justly due. The only difference of opinion existing in any part of the House was regarding the reasons for the justification of his action. He admitted the ability in the Secretary of the State, but there were points of the letter to which he could not assent. For purposes of commerce only, the laws of nations have recognized the principle that an individual may acquire a domicile alien to the country of his birth, to which he owes allegiance, and this is unmistakably laid down in all the authorities which the Secretary has quoted.

The error of the Secretary is, that he overlooks this fact and the distinctions drawn. Nationality goes with domicile for commercial purposes, on the principles laid down by Sir Wm. Scott, and followed by the American courts. In reply to a question by Mr. Phillips, he said that there was a growing tendency to a temporary allegiance growing out of domicile, connected with commercial transactions, and the other permanent allegiance growing out of the duty of the citizen in the abstract, without regard to commerce or property. He discussed this subject at some length.

Mr. Preston said he believed the committee on foreign affairs had placed this resolution on the right ground. It was a kind of Baltimore platform, which all could support without being committed to any particular position.

The principles of international law, or Mr. Mary's letter might be added as a preamble to the resolution, and then the resolution would be better for the House simply to thank Capt. Ingraham for doing his duty than to discuss principles of international law. He asked Mr. Disney if the act which compelled a foreigner, who had declared his intention to become a citizen, to commence *de novo* after a temporary absence, had not been repealed since 1848, and if the government had not been derelict in duty had failed to protect Koszta.

Mr. Disney contended that a foreigner could not become a citizen until he had complied with all the requirements of the naturalization laws.

Mr. Preston replied that this government had no law under which an alien could go abroad to a neutral port, and be protected. He only objected to that part of Mr. Mary's letter, in which he said protection to Koszta was a national duty of this government. He considered it to be the duty of the United States to protect him.

As a Whip, he was glad Mr. Mary had written the letter, and the people would support the administration so long as it was up to the present views. The dissent of the previous question, on motion of Mr. Clingman was then seconded by yeas 83, nays 28.

Mr. Dean having reported the resolution from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, closed the debate.

He wished it to be distinctly understood, that he preferred the resolution of the Committee to the one he just introduced.

Mr. Cunningham said he would vote for the resolution, but did not subscribe to the grounds, taken by the gentleman from New York.

Without referring it to the committee of the whole, the resolution was then adopted by yeas 174, nays 9.

The yeas were Messrs. Abernethy, Clark, Harlan of Ohio, Jones of Tennessee, McDonald, Parker, Puryear, and Smith of Ala.

Mr. Stanton, from the printing committee, reported in favor of printing 50,000 copies of the compendium of the census, instead of the full report, and pending a consideration of the subject, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JAN. 13, 1854.

Mr. Bright presented a petition from the citizens of Washington and Georgetown, for a custom-house in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition for the exclusion of slavery from the territories, and moved that it be referred to a select committee. Referred.

A joint resolution for striking out of Bruns- wick, Ga., a part of entry was brought up from the House and passed.

Mr. Bell moved for copies of the correspondence between the President of the United States and the Chilean government, respecting the forcible abduction of four American sailors at the port of Valparaiso, as well as respecting other outrages.

Mr. Win, reported, from the committee, a bill for the relief of widows and orphans of the officers and crew of the ship *Granopus*, lost in 1843.

A joint resolution for a vote of thanks to Capt. Ingraham was referred to the committee on naval affairs.

Mr. Badger moved that when the Senate adjourn it adjourn to meet on Monday.

Some further business of no particular interest, was transacted, after which Mr. Clayton arose and entered into a discussion of the treaty which goes by his name, between Great Britain and the United States respecting Central America. He prefaced his speech by the reading of certain portions of the speech of Senator Cass, on the preceding day, which was done by Mr. Benjamin, and at the conclusion commending thereupon, having spoken one hour and a half.

Mr. Badger interposed and said: Mr. President, I will ask my friend from Delaware, who seems to be a good deal exhausted, to give way in the discussion of this subject, and I will submit a motion that the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. Clayton yielded the floor; Mr. Badger's motion was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker laid before the House two documents yesterday received from the President, covering the information some time since called for by the House concerning the condition of the fisheries dispute; ordered to be printed without being read, for the information of the House.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the resolution reported yesterday from the Committee on Printing by Mr. Stanton of Ky., directing the printing of fifty thousand extra copies of the abstract of the census last taken.

Mr. Meacham proposed to amend this resolution by striking out "fifty thousand," and inserting in lieu thereof "one hundred thousand."

Upon this amendment there arose a debate, in which Messrs. Meacham, Skelton, Stanton of Ky., and Florence advocated the amendment, and Messrs. Straub and Eastman opposed it.

The question was then put on agreeing to the amendment by yeas and nays, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 104, nays 54.

The resolution was then passed as amended.

The speaker then proceeded to call upon committees for reports, beginning with the committee on foreign relations, at which the call stopped on the last day.

Mr. Houston, from the committee on ways and means, to which was referred a bill from the Senate, regulating the mode of payment of members of that body, reported the same back to the House, with sundry amendments. He proposed to postpone the further consideration of the bill until Tuesday next, on the ground that the amendments might be printed.

Some discussion arose upon the motion to postpone, it being objected that it would materially inconvenience many Senators.

Mr. Bayly of Virginia, was opposed to any amendments of the bill by the House, especially because he thought that the Senate ought to be entrusted with the management of its own contingent fund, and with the selection of the depositories for that fund, without any intervention on the part of the House. Were he a member of the Senate he should consider himself insulted by the amendments proposed.

Messrs. Houston, Jones, Meade, Taylor of Ohio and Clingman participated in the debate.

Mr. Clingman moved the previous question, which was seconded, and the main question was ordered.

The question recurring on the amendments of the committee, they were severally agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading, and was subsequently read a third time and passed, by yeas 118, nays 52. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House considered and committed the private bills of the Senate which were on the calendar. The Committee of Claims were released from the consideration of various petitions. Mr. Drum asked leave to offer resolutions of inquiry in relation to the expediency of appointing a select committee on the subject of Boston, New York and Norfolk, to be ready in case of disaster to the commercial marine of the country, which was objected to. The bill of the Senate continuing in force the act to settle the private land claims in California was passed. The homestead bill was reported back from the Committee on Public Lands with an amendment, and referred to the Committee on the whole. Mr. Ewing addressed the House at length in opposition to the levying of tonnage duties on domestic commerce, and Mr. Keitt obtained the floor, when the committee rose. The House then proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the Senate prescribing the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. The question of adopting the amendment to the bill proposed by Mr. Orr (deferring the operation of the bill until a vacancy should occur in the office) was taken and agreed to. The main question was then taken, and the bill was amended and rejected—yeas 70, nays 107. The question of reconsidering the vote by which the bill was rejected, and that the motion to reconsider be taken on the table, was next taken and affirmed—yeas 106, nays 50. The House adjourned till Monday.

MATERIAL FOR PAPER. We spoke some days since of several specimens of paper we had examined, made of roots or cane, and of the probable success of certain experiments designed for bringing it into use. The *Scientific American*, a very able and useful journal of New York, has a notice of the matter, and remarks that the best and cheapest material applied to the making of paper is a fine sea grass, thin in the blade and of great length. It is so abundant along some parts of our coast, that millions of tons of it can be obtained annually, at only a trifling expense for gathering and carrying away. It will, from its very nature, make much better paper than cane or any of the straws or cereals—wheat and oats. Some samples of paper made from this material, exhibited to us, were really beautiful.

The whole question of making paper economically does not depend on the practicability of making it from cane, corn stalks, or any substance composed of vegetable fiber, but the cost of making it. To this every effort of the paper manufacturer and chemist is directed, for no greater benefit could be conferred upon our people than the reduction of the cost of printing paper. Cheap paper makes cheap books and newspapers—the staff and the stay of an intelligent people and the great bulwarks of American freedom.

DEATH OF THE MARCHIONESS WELLESLEY. We learn from an English paper that the Marchioness Wellesley died on the 7th inst. at Hampton Court, after a short illness. She was a daughter of the late Rich- ard Caton, Esq. of Maryland, and grand-daughter of the celebrated Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Another of Lady Wellesley's sisters is Mrs. McTavish; and she is a daughter of Leeds; and another, the Dowager Lady Stafford. Lady Wellesley's first husband was Robert Pattison, Esq. In 1828 she married the late Lord Wellesley, eldest brother of the Marquis Duke of Wellington. Her Ladyship was, for many years Lady of the Bed-Chamber to Queen Adelaide.

A communication recently published in the *Rail- road Standard*, nominates David Reid, Esq. of Du- plaque county, as a suitable democratic candidate for Governor of the State. Mr. Reid is a gentleman of amiable character, fine talents, and considerable experience as a politician. He would, if nominated, make a good run for Governor. We should rejoice to see him wearing the gubernatorial honors.

To the Editor of the New York Mercury.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 23, 1854.

DEAR SIR:—The following account of the loss of the U. S. Revenue Cutter Hamilton, may be of interest to the friends of some who were on board, and have hitherto been able to procure any authentic statement of that dreadful catastrophe. The information has been obtained from repeated conversations with the only survivor, and from careful enquiries amongst intelligent and reliable persons in Charleston.

The Hamilton sailed from Charleston about noon of the 7th December, to proceed upon a winter's cruise off the coast, for the purpose of relieving vessels in distress. The wind was light from the South West, and as she approached the bar, it became necessary to make a few tacks. It is well known that the inner buoy of the bar had been for some time lost; but of this fact, Capt. Rudolph appears to have been unaware. No pilot being allowed to the vessel, the middle buoy was mistaken for the inner one, and she was run aground upon the north side of the channel, and upon each of the officers and crew succeeded in getting her aloft by ten o'clock of that night, when she was anchored in the ship channel to wait for daylight. During the night the wind shifted to North East, and blew so fresh that the cable parted, but the other anchor being let go, she rode safely until morning. The weather had by this time become very threatening, and as early as practicable, the cutter was got under way, with the intention, as supposed, of beating back into the harbor. Finding, however, that she was losing ground, the vessel was again anchored. From diligent enquiry, and from a careful examination of the chart, I am led to conclude that her position must have been to the northward of the bank forming the south breaker, and westward of the ships channel. If this supposition be correct, she was there embayed with terrific fury, and upon each of the officers and crew succeeded in getting her aloft by ten o'clock of that night, when she was anchored in the ship channel to wait for daylight. During the night the wind shifted to North East, and blew so fresh that the cable parted, but the other anchor being let go, she rode safely until morning. 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